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only two have been made accessible to the student in modern editions, so that the present work of M. Langlois will hold its place for some time to come as an authoritative book of reference in this field.

F. L. CRITCHLOW.

Princeton University.

With regal ornament; the middle pair  
 Skirted his loins and thighs with downy gold  
 And colors dipt in heaven.  
 Like Maia's son he stood,  
 And shook his plumes, that heavenly fragrance filled  
 The circuit wide." (*Paradise Lost*, v, 278 ff.)

C. H. IBERSHOFF.

Harvard University.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### THOUGHT AND AFTERTHOUGHT IN BROWNING'S *Paracelsus*

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—I have drawn attention, in your columns and elsewhere, to the influence exercised by Elizabeth Barrett upon Robert Browning, especially in the deepening and clarifying of his religious convictions. I should like to add to my argument a stray fact, which may be regarded by some as merely a curious coincidence, but seems to me of greater significance. In *Paracelsus*, Book II, after the lines 648–9, spoken by Aprile:

Yes; I see now. God is the PERFECT POET,  
 Who in His person acts His own creations.

Browning added in the edition of 1849 the following passage:

Shall Man refuse to be ought less than God?  
 Man's weakness is his glory—for the strength  
 Which raises him to heaven and near God's self  
 Came spite of it; God's strength his glory is,  
 For thence came with our weakness sympathy  
 Which brought God down to earth, a man like us.

In the edition of 1863, the interpolation was suppressed. The addition and the omission are alike noteworthy, I think. I am indebted for the textual information to the edition of Browning's *Paracelsus* recently published in London by Miss Margaret L. Lee and Miss Katharine B. Locock.

J. W. CUNLIFFE.

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### A NEGLECTED KLOPSTOCK–MILTON PARALLEL

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—The following parallel has, I believe, escaped the notice of the commentators of Klopstock. Of the angel Chebar we read (*Messias*, xii, 510 ff.):

"Ihm sanken herab, wie Schatten, die Flügel,  
 Ohne zu tönen, and ohne zu duften des ewigen Frühlings  
 Süsse Gerüche, nicht mehr mit des Himmels Bläue  
 beströmet,  
 Tiefend nicht mehr von goldenen Tropfen."

This is clearly reminiscent of the angel Raphael of whom Milton sings:

"the pair [sc. of wings] that clad  
 Each shoulder broad came mantling o'er his breast

## BRIEF MENTION

*A Study of Words*, by E. M. Blackburn, M. A. (Longmans, Green, & Co., 1911), is a student's dictionary of English words, with concise definitions arranged in the order of the development of meaning from the primary or radical significance, which is made clear by a brief indication of the etymology. In other words, it is a concise, etymological dictionary, constructed with special reference to the clear apprehension of the exact meaning and the approved use of words. But it is the wish of the compiler to have his book taken to be not a dictionary but a method of studying words deductively, starting with the derivation and proceeding thence through meanings. The method is illustrated in the preface by the series of meanings carried by the word *pitch*. It is not well to omit the etymology of a word when it is doubtful, for the conjectured source is usually arrived at by specially careful study. In the case of *pitch*, the etymology is, however, omitted, and there is no suggestion of a connection with *pike* and *peak* (altho *peck* is referred to in the preface, it is not found in the body of the work). It is doubtful whether this dictionary fills a want. Its limitations are disappointing: "Many common words, and most uncommon ones, have been omitted, and the rarer words of other languages than ours have been avoided. Sometimes derivation without meaning is given, and sometimes meaning without derivation. In cases of doubtful origin, not more than one explanation is offered, and alternative possibilities are not discussed."

No doubt will be entertained of the usefulness of *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*. Adapted by H. W. Fowler and F. G. Fowler from *The Oxford Dictionary* (Clarendon Press, 1911). This is a marvel of condensation, accomplished by skilful hands and with the laudable purpose of putting the average man into possession of a large portion of the extraordinary work of the editors of the great *Oxford Dictionary*. As a dictionary for the school-satchel this handy volume far surpasses all others in fulness and accuracy.